

The Great Spirit created Man and Woman in his own image. In doing so, both were created as equals. Both depending on each other in order to survive. Great respect was shown for each other; in doing so, happiness and contentment was achieved then, as it should be now.

The connecting of the Hair makes them one person; for happiness or contentment cannot be achieved without each other.

The Canyons are represented by the purples in the middle ground, where the people were created. These canyons are Sacred, and should be so treated at all times.

The Reservation is pictured to represent the land that is ours, treat it well.



The Reservation is our heritage and the heritage of our children yet unborn. Be good to our land and it will continue to be good to us.

The Sun is the symbol of life, without it nothing is possible – plants don't grow – there will be no life – nothing. The Sun also represents the dawn of the Hualapai people. Through hard work, determination and education, everything is possible and we are assured bigger and brighter days ahead.

The Tracks in the middle represent the coyote and other animals which were here before us.

The Green around the symbol are pine trees, representing our name Hualapai – PEOPLE OF THE TALL PINES –

HUALAPAI TRIBE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Wilfred Whatoname, Sr.
Chairman

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Richard Walema, Sr.
Vice Chairman

July 16, 2010

Pamela S. Innis,
Topockl Project Manager
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
P.O. Box 25007 (D-108)
Denver, CO 80225-0007

Subject: Review of "Groundwater Proposed Plan, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Topock Compressor Station, Needles, California, June 4, 2010," by U.S. Department of the Interior

We hereby submit the following comments to the above referenced subject:

While the Hualapai Tribe believe that the water should be kept clean, we also believe that there should be an emphasis on protection of cultural resources. The Department of the Interior (DOI) Proposed Plan seems to put a greater emphasis on cleaning up the groundwater. The Proposed Plan does not mention that the DOI owns almost all of the land surrounding the Topock Compressor Station, and the plume is mostly under DOI land. You would think the DOI would be most concerned about protection of natural and cultural resources; however, there appears to be a tacit acceptance by the DOI that damages will be done to cultural resources.

The Hualapai Tribe believe that the plants are sacred. Willows are still used as materials for basket making by members of the Hualapai Tribe, where willow shoots are split with the teeth. In the DOI Proposed Plan (p. 6): "...there are no ecological receptors currently at risk of adverse effects." Have plants been sampled and analyzed for chromium-6? Has the DOI considered plants as a potential contaminant pathway? Do the willows at Topock contain chromium-6?

The organic layer next to the river has been converting chromium-6 to chromium-3 in a natural manner. As part of the preferred Alternative E, many wells will be poked through this natural organic layer. What if these wells upset the natural balance of the organic layer? If the

chromium-6 needs to be pumped away from the Colorado River, the wells should be further away from the river so that the organic layer is not disrupted.

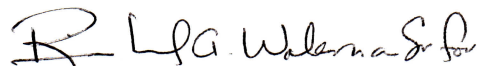
The Proposed Plan says that "byproducts are expected from the in-situ treatment." What are these byproducts? Are the byproducts just as toxic and carcinogenic as chromium-6? Will the plants take up these byproducts? Will these byproducts discharge to the river?

The Hualapai Tribe believe that the land should be returned to its original condition after the work has been completed. However, there is no mention of restoration or how they would properly abandon the huge number of wells at the site (up to 300 wells). All of the activities at the Topock site—wells, buried pipes, and roads—have taken place in an area that is sacred to us. What would you say if we drilled a bunch of wells next to your grandmother's grave? You would not be happy either. The least we can do is look into the future, and describe what the site will look like to our grandchildren.

In the discussion about institutional controls, how will institutional controls affect the Tribes? The Hualapai Tribe is a sovereign government. Rather than "*engaging in conversation with the tribes*," there should be government to government relations with the Tribes. We have a lot of experience in government to government decision making, and could offer our expertise.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, if you have any questions or concerns, please call me at the above number or contact Ms. Loretta Jackson-Kelly, Director of the Department of Cultural Resources @ (928) 769-2223.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wilfred Whatoname, SR." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Wilfred Whatoname, SR.
Chairman, Hualapai Tribal Council